

TOP SECRET

CIA Watch Office - Items of Interest - 1700, 11 August to 0730, 12 August.

NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

1. ARREST OF GENERAL NORIEGA - General Noriega was arrested in the early morning of 11 August in his own home and is being held at the Ministry of War, probably for deportation on 11 or 12 August. About 20 civilians and a greater number of civilians have been arrested so far, but no disturbances have occurred in the Peruvian interior.

2. [REDACTED]

3. JOHN INTERVIEW - HICOG press officer Cox, who attended interview, reports that John gave convincing impression of coolness, self-mastery, and full presence of mind in course of questions and answers. Evidence indicates he was not drugged or being held against his will.

4. MOROCCO - Conselor Porter in Rabat has received a letter from the "Secret Front of Free Moroccans" protesting America's neutral position in the Moroccan question and requesting that the American press be informed of the situation in Rabat, which Porter reports as involving continued demonstrations XXXXXXXXX in the name of the former Sultan.

5. TIBET - The U.S. Embassy in New Delhi has received a telegram from the "Tibet Flood Relief Committee", Tibet House, Kalimpong, requesting funds to purchase supplies for the relief of victims of the Tibetan floods. The Embassy has no information regarding such a committee but comments that forwarding funds or relief supplies might contravene U.S. regulations pertaining to Communist China and occupied territories.

6. Brazil - The situation is still uncertain and no decision appears yet to have been reached by armed forces chiefs on forcing Vargas' resignation, though Gomes is working as intermediary between the armed forces group and War Minister Zenobio in an effort to gain his support in move against Vargas and thus prevent a division in the armed forces.

7. CYPRUS - The drift of affairs is bringing the nationalists and the communists closer together, and the latter are now well on the way to achieving the "unity" they have been seeking for the past several years. It must be anticipated that they soon will be able to get the nationalists to join in the denunciation of British bases on Cyprus.

8. CAMBODIA - U.S. Official Goodman comments on the newly-arrived 98 man advance party of the International Control Commission: "The Polish delegation seems young, inarticulate, confused and beyond depth..."; "The Canadians are largely uninformed combat officers from Korea with a few Foreign Office men headed by apparently able Amb. McDonald.;" "The Indians, almost to a man, are sensitive and curious; asking all pertinent questions about the current situation here they are the best briefed of the three,...".

25X1

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9. Communist China - The 100,000 Chinese working on the Yangtze dikes in Central China redoubled their efforts yesterday as the river's flood hit a new high crest of 97.76 feet, Peiping Radio said today. 25X1

25X1 10. USSR-INDOCHINA - The Soviet government has appointed Alexandre Lavritchev as Soviet Ambassador in Vietnam. 25X1

11. PERU - (see item 1) General Noriega, after being arrested this morning, was taken at 1130 (local time) to the La Punta Naval School and was immediately shipped out of the country in a naval vessel. 25X1

12. USSR - The Soviet Communist Party has censured Agricultural Minister Ivan Benedikov and Railways Minister Boris Beschev, and their subordinates, for failing to get necessary trucks and combines moved into the rich Siberia and Kazakhstan agricultural regions, Moscow Radio said. The Central Committee said that the vital harvest now under way in the two areas may be "seriously impaired" by the lack of machinery. 25X1

13. HUNGARY - Reports of reliable witnesses suggest that the 12th university summer games failed to fulfill the intended propaganda function and that they produced embarrassing political repercussions for the regime. Attending public showed open contempt for Russian participants by greeting their entrance with silence. All opposing teams loudly cheered. Defiant mood of Hungarians also reflected in high rate of absenteeism, slack work discipline etc. 25X1

14. BRAZIL - There has been violence in the form of rioting in Rio de Janeiro. The latest dispatch states that the Vargas regime is expected to ride out the crisis. 25X1